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H. CON. RES. 75

Condemning the National Islamic Front (NIF) government for its genocidal war in southern Sudan, support for terrorism, and continued human rights violations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 1999

Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. GILMAN, Ms. LEE, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WYNN, Mr. UPTON, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. KING, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. FROST, and Mr. CANADY of Florida) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Condemning the National Islamic Front (NIF) government for its genocidal war in southern Sudan, support for terrorism, and continued human rights violations, and for other purposes.

Whereas according to the United States Committee for Refugees (USCR) an estimated 1,900,000 people have died over the past decade due to war and war-related causes and famine, while millions have been displaced from their homes and separated from their families;

Whereas the National Islamic Front (NIF) government's war policy in southern Sudan, the Nuba Mountains, and the

Ingessena Hills has brought untold suffering to innocent civilians and is threatening the very survival of a whole generation of southern Sudanese;

Whereas the people of the Nuba Mountains and the Ingessena Hills are at particular risk, having been specifically targeted through a deliberate prohibition of international food aid, inducing manmade famine, and by routinely bombing civilian centers, including religious services, schools, and hospitals;

Whereas the National Islamic Front government is deliberately and systematically committing crimes against humanity in southern Sudan, the Nuba Mountains, and the Ingessena Hills;

Whereas the National Islamic Front government is deliberately and systematically committing genocide in southern Sudan;

Whereas the Convention for the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, defines “genocide” as official acts committed by a government with the intent to destroy a national, ethnic, or religious group, and this definition also includes “deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction, in whole or in part”;

Whereas the National Islamic Front government systematically and repeatedly obstructed peace efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) over the past several years;

Whereas the Declaration of Principles (DOP) put forth by the Intergovernmental Authority for Development medi-

ators is the most viable negotiating framework to resolve the problems in Sudan and to bring lasting peace;

Whereas humanitarian conditions in southern Sudan, especially in Bahr al-Ghazal and the Nuba Mountains, deteriorated in 1998, largely due to the National Islamic Front government's decision to ban United Nation's relief flights from February through the end of April in 1998 and the government continues to deny access in certain locations;

Whereas an estimated 2,600,000 southern Sudanese were at risk of starvation late last year in southern Sudan and the World Food Program currently estimates that 4,000,000 people are in need of emergency assistance;

Whereas the United Nations-coordinated relief effort, Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS), failed to respond in time at the height of the humanitarian crisis last year and has allowed the National Islamic Front government to manipulate and obstruct the relief efforts;

Whereas the relief work in the affected areas is further complicated by the National Islamic Front's repeated aerial attacks on feeding centers, clinics, and other civilian targets;

Whereas relief efforts are further exacerbated by looting, bombing, and killing of innocent civilians and relief workers by government-sponsored militias in the affected areas;

Whereas these government-sponsored militias have carried out violent raids in Aweil West, Twic, and Gogrial counties in Bahr el Ghazal/Lakes Region, killing hundreds of civilians and displacing thousands;

Whereas the National Islamic Front government has perpetrated a prolonged campaign of human rights abuses and discrimination throughout the country;

Whereas the National Islamic Front government-sponsored militias have been engaged in the enslavement of innocent civilians, including children, women, and the elderly;

Whereas the now common slave raids being carried out by the government's Popular Defense Force (PDF) militias are undertaken as part of the government's self-declared jihad (holy war) against the predominantly traditional and Christian south;

Whereas Christian Solidarity International (CSI) stated in its recent report that "the institution of chattel slavery continues in a large scale in National Islamic Front-controlled areas of Sudan, especially in southern Darfur and southern Kordofan";

Whereas the Department of State, in its report on Human Rights Practices for 1997, affirmed that "reports and information from a variety of sources after February 1994 indicate that the number of cases of slavery, servitude, slave trade, and forced labor have increased alarmingly";

Whereas the enslavement of people is considered in international law as "crime against humanity";

Whereas Christian Solidarity International estimates the number of people enslaved by government-sponsored militias to be in the tens of thousands and that Christian Solidarity International alone has helped redeem an estimated 5,942 slaves since 1995;

Whereas United Nations Special Rapporteur for Sudan, Gaspar Biro, reported on a number of occasions the rou-

tine practice of slavery and the complicity of the Government of Sudan;

Whereas the National Islamic Front government abuses and tortures political opponents and innocent civilians in the North and that many northerners have been killed by this regime over the years;

Whereas the vast majority of Muslims in Sudan do not subscribe to the National Islamic Front's extremist and politicized practice of Islam and moderate Muslims have been specifically targeted by the regime;

Whereas the National Islamic Front government is considered by much of the world community to be a rogue state because of its support for international terrorism and its campaign of terrorism against its own people;

Whereas according to the Department of State's Patterns of Global Terrorism Report, "Sudan's support to terrorist organizations has included paramilitary training, indoctrination, money, travel documentation, safe passage, and refuge in Sudan";

Whereas the National Islamic Front government has been implicated in the assassination attempt of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Ethiopia in 1995 and the World Trade Center bombing in 1993;

Whereas the National Islamic Front government has permitted Sudan to be used by well-known terrorist organizations as a refuge and training hub over the years;

Whereas the Saudi-born financier of extremist groups and the mastermind of the United States embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, Osama bin-Laden, used Sudan as a base of operations for several years and continues to maintain economic interests there;

Whereas on August 20, 1998, United States Naval forces struck a suspected chemical weapons facility in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, in retaliation for the United States embassy bombings in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam;

Whereas relations between the United States and Sudan continue to deteriorate because of human rights violations, the government's war policy in southern Sudan, and the National Islamic Front's support for international terrorism;

Whereas the United States Government placed Sudan in 1993 on the list of seven states in the world that sponsor terrorism and imposed comprehensive sanctions on the National Islamic Front government in November 1997; and

Whereas the struggle by the people of Sudan and opposition forces is a just struggle for freedom and democracy against the extremist regime in Khartoum: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved* by the House of Representatives (the Senate
2 concurring), That the Congress—

3 (1) strongly condemns the National Islamic
4 Front government for its genocidal war in southern
5 Sudan, support for terrorism, and continued human
6 rights violations;

7 (2) strongly deplores the government-sponsored
8 and tolerated slave raids in southern Sudan and
9 calls on the government to immediately end the
10 practice of slavery;

1 (3) calls on the United Nations Security Coun-
2 cil to condemn the slave raids and bring to justice
3 those responsible for these crimes against humanity;

4 (4) calls on the President—

5 (A) to increase support for relief organiza-
6 tions that are working outside the United Na-
7 tions-coordinated relief effort, Operation Life-
8 line Sudan (OLS), in opposition-controlled
9 areas;

10 (B) to instruct the Administrator of the
11 United States Agency for International Devel-
12 opment (USAID) and the heads of other rel-
13 evant agencies to increase and better coordinate
14 with nongovernmental organizations outside the
15 Operation Lifeline Sudan system involved in re-
16 lief work in Sudan and work to strengthen Op-
17 eration Lifeline Sudan's independence from the
18 National Islamic Front regime;

19 (C) to increase development funds for ca-
20 pacity building, democracy promotion, civil ad-
21 ministration, judiciary, and infrastructure sup-
22 port in opposition-controlled areas;

23 (D) to instruct the Administrator of the
24 United States Agency for International Devel-
25 opment to provide humanitarian assistance di-

1 rectly, including food, to the Sudan Relief and
2 Rehabilitation Association (SRRA) and other
3 indigenous groups in southern Sudan and the
4 Nuba Mountains;

5 (E) to intensify and expand United States
6 diplomatic and economic pressures on the Na-
7 tional Islamic Front government;

8 (F) to provide the Sudan People's Libera-
9 tion Army with defensive anti-aircraft weapons
10 in order to stop the indiscriminate bombings
11 against civilian populations by the National Is-
12 lamic Front's air force;

13 (G) to take the lead to strengthen the
14 Intergovernmental Authority for Development's
15 (IGAD) peace process; and

16 (H) not later than 3 months after the
17 adoption of this resolution, to report to the
18 Congress about the administration's efforts or
19 plans to end slavery in Sudan; and

20 (5) calls on the United Nations Security
21 Council—

22 (A) to impose an arms embargo on the
23 Government of Sudan;

1 (B) to condemn the enslavement of inno-
2 cent civilians and take appropriate measures
3 against the perpetrators of this crime;

4 (C) to swiftly implement reforms within
5 the Operation Lifeline Sudan to enhance inde-
6 pendence from the National Islamic Front re-
7 gime;

8 (D) to implement United Nations Security
9 Council Resolution 1070 relating to an air em-
10 bargo;

11 (E) to make a determination that the Na-
12 tional Islamic Front's war policy in southern
13 Sudan and the Nuba Mountains constitutes
14 genocide; and

15 (F) to create "no-fly zones" in southern
16 Sudan, the Nuba Mountains, and the Ingessena
17 Hills in order to protect innocent civilians from
18 aerial bombardment by the National Islamic
19 Front's air force.

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